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- 122 -

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ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides a nucleic acid
sequence encoding a melanoma antigen recognized by T
lymphocytes, designated MART-1. This invention further
relates to bioassays using the nucleic acid sequence,
protein or antibodies of this invention to diagnose,
assess or prognoses a mammal afflicted with melanoma or
metastata melanoma. This invention also provides
immunogenic peptides derived from the MART-1 melanoma
10 antigen and a second melanoma antigen designated gp100.
This invention further provides immunogenic peptides
derived from the MART-1 melanoma antigen or gp100 antigen
which have been modified to enhance their immunogenicity.
The proteins and peptides provided can serve as an
15 immunogen or vaccine to prevent or treat melanoma.

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